

# Reflection

## *Considerations on my Thesis project (P5)*

### **SOMEWHAT ANECDOTIC**

I was talking with my mother the other day, just a few days before submitting my thesis, and trying to give me a last push support, strength and courage not to give up right before the end, she said:

–Can you believe it?! You only have 7 days left of two years!– The phrase and (the way she implied the passage of time) had the opposite effect, and from then on, my way of counting the days adapted to that friendly system that in her voice denoted pride but in my ears generated anxiety. 7 days of 2 years, 6 days of two years, 5 of two years, 4 of two, 2 of 3... two of two.

In that was condensed this last phase of my life that ended like this, with an end point, the click of a button, upload and sent. And it looked so different from how I imagined it would... A place that I never foresaw and that without paying much attention to where life was leading me, brought me here, to the other side of the world to study a branch of my profession, which I couldn't say for sure if it's the one I want to dedicate myself to from here on out.

### **ABOUT MY THESIS**

Remembering what in a first flash of inspiration, I see that this thesis ended up being something completely different from what I imagined it would be. Nowadays it takes me a minute for me to understand how and why it unfolded the way it did, that no matter how much I planned and developed methodologies and timelines and outcomes by the thousands, I could never have foreseen.

I'm not naive about the reasons though... and I am aware of the causes and events that made me have to rethink the plan and the process of my thesis. Personal matters... family matters... other responsibilities... the irresponsibility of a youth that still resists fading away at my age... and the desire to enjoy life in a strange country, are all the usual suspects.

It is the distance and these intervals of time that feel so long (but are so short) that make all this end up taking on a somewhat

anecdotal nuance and the proposals of my thesis feel, in the eyes of those who have not lived firsthand and have not seen the realities of other contexts (like the Latin American one), somewhat utopian like the chimerical amalgam of dreams, fantasies, and illusions that seem to have no technical or real foundation.

But believe me... the realities that I described here, the hopes and aspirations of these communities, and the feverish desire to see a Bogotá that does not fall apart under the weight of its own history, are as real as they are relevant when planning the city we deserve. This is just a light sketch of what I can see now of what my city could become, with the lenses and tools that this urbanism master has provided me, and it is open to reinterpretations, discussions, modifications, and alterations; it should be the result of the joint action of all Bogotans, and not just a few.

### **NEXT STEPS & POSSIBLE CONTINUATIONS**

Following this idea, this thesis can be continued or deepened in various aspects. The main one involves delving into the communities that reside in the different sectors of the city and better specifying their origin, cultural characteristics, vulnerability states, current conditions of their realities, and how they ended up in Bogotá. This is with the aim of generating a social catalog that allows for easy identification of social groups and types of intervention, considering their adaptability and specifying in which sectors of the city it is possible that strategies and types of intervention.

The second, which is related to the previous one, is the formulation of specific participatory processes and their internal functioning, in order to be implemented with the different communities of the city. So far, the participatory part was stated as a strategy, but I do not have any specific tools with which it could be implemented. The planning of this is of utmost importance to be able to develop participatory planning and develop with the communities the traditional practices that could be implemented within the territory.

